Love for Dessert
Hana Aoi
EXPLICIT CONTENT

Love
Love
Love for Dessert
Hana Aoi

Love for Dessert

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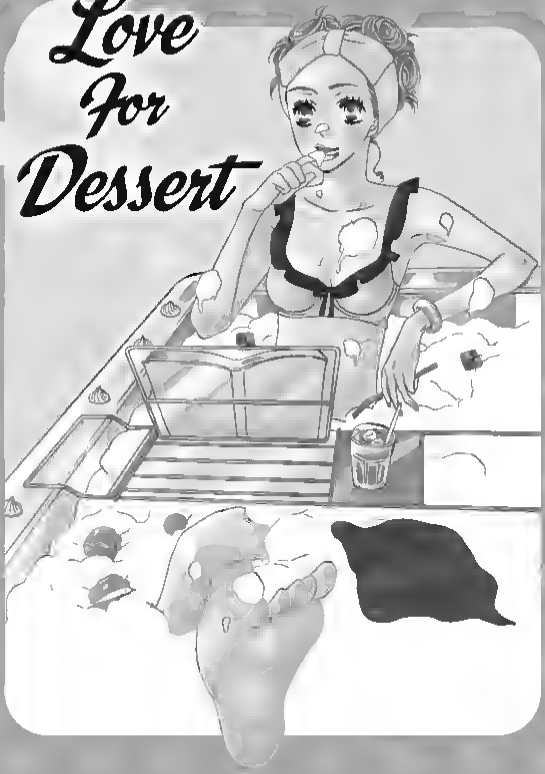

Love
For
Dessert

PUFF
Koyama, you're too slow
Speed it up, wouldja?
After six months as a part-timer...
...I finally became a full-time employee at an ad agency.
Tee-hee! Sorry!
This happened a few days ago.
"Tee-hee"?!

I was assigned to Kuze's division. He's a real tight ass.
I got these from a client Want some, Rei?
Woo-hoo! Thanks!
Don't worry, Rei You'll get used to the work.
Are you even *listening* to me?!
Have some, Kuze.
Morimoto from sales is my *office prince.*
If only he weren't married.
Something sweet will cheer you right up!

That's too bad. More for us, Rei!
No thanks. I *hate* whipped cream!
Woo-hoo!
THE HOURS ARE LONG.
OVERTIME... OVERTIME... AND MORE OVERTIME
WHAT'S WORSE, I'M ALWAYS STUCK HERE WITH KUZE!
OH, THE *HORROR*!
Are you *still* working on that, Koyama?
Hah?
Lin... I'll be done soon.
Six straight days of overtime...
トホー
Ugh.

RAT-TAT-TAT
I'm back. How's the report coming along?
Sorry you always have to stay so late, Rei.
PERK
No worries!!
Ugghh
As a part-timer I always went home on time...
...but there's no mercy for full-timers.
This section is almost finished!
Oh, right! This work is for Morimoto!
I've got one more stop, and then I'm going home. See you tomorrow
Bye-bye!
Of course not!
Kuze, can't you handle the work alone?

There's tons of work!
FWUMP
I guess sales is hard, too
Yeah, I couldn't handle having to wear a suit every day
Oh, look what time it is. We should eat.
CHAK
Uh do you want me to go buy us something?
Yeah Something cheap
Ahhh.
It's so nice to get out of the office.
DEALING WITH KUZE ALL DAY. .
...REALLY SUCKS.
Here's your dinner.
Thanks.

KLINK
WHISK
WHISK
What's that?
You don't know?
WHISK
WHISK
?
It's whipped cream!
That's your dinner?!
BLEAGH!!
Yep!
By the spoonful!!
Eat it where I can't see you or I'll hurl!
URK

OH, THE HORROR...
Uh...
How much...
...of the work is left?
Hiding
おくれた。
Huh?
We'll split it.
All of it?!
FHUMP
ヒ"ッ
...all of it.
FLICK
ﾌｨｯ
Well, let me do half.
Sorry! I know I'm slow!

Is that his way of encouraging me?
You'll get faster. Well... maybe you will.
TUMP
How about calling it quits for today?
Yeah, OK.
DROOP
"Today"?! It's already tomorrow!!
Home at last!

Hi, Mom.
Rei?
Home so late again?
What kind of a company makes young woman work *this* late?!
ESHUK
I'm *starving*!
FLUMP
So what if I *am* a woman?
Like it matters in today's world!
I'm gonna shower and go to bed
Good night, Mom.

ZZZ
Ugh.
I should take off my makeup.
NOO
STRAND
SMAK
Huh? Why's he getting NAKED?
What the hell is...?
What the HELL?!
The reason I make you work so late.
...is so that we can be alone.

WHY DID I DREAM THAT?!
Good morning, Rei!
カバッ
WAP
I MEAN SERIOUSLY...
... WHY COULDN'T I DREAM ABOUT MORIMOTO?
Good morning!
Oh, well! I'm young... I can handle it!
You really shouldn't have to work like that.
I heard you were here past midnight.

OK!
Just hang in there, OK?
To make it up to you, I'll treat you to dinner sometime.
What am I saying?
BLUSH
Oh?
Kuze, I finished that last job.
What's next?
After that dream I had...
...it's even harder to be around him
I'm reenergized and ready to go!!
But,...
...it's just Kuze and me again

WHAT AMAZING CONCENTRATION...
Um...
Kuze?
PEEK
SILENCE
Yo, Kuze!!
FAT
JOLT
What? Huh?
Don't scare me like that!
I didn't mean to. You were in a zone.
Anyway, what's my next job?
There's nothing more for you until Morimoto gets back.
I think we're making progress

He's two hours late!!
I wonder if he's busy.
Here. Snack on these while you wait
Woo-hoo! Thanks!
Kuze, I thought you hated whipped cream.
DID HE BUY THESE... HIMSELF?
I can eat the ones with custard
Half of them are custard
Oh I see

Hey, you know what?
I feel so weird...
I CAN'T GET THAT DREAM OUT OF MY HEAD.
MUNCH
MUNCH
Things seem to be calming down...
...so you'll be able to leave early.
Huh?
You could try to look happy, you know!
Hey! Those fingers were in your mouth!
SQUEEZE

Anyway, go start some coffee, wouldja?
Oh, uh— sorry
CHAK
I SHOULD BE HAPPY...
HE'S RIGHT.
...SO WHY DON'T I FEEL THAT WAY?
TUG!!
LLLICK!!
Hold still.
You've got cream on your face.

FLUMP
OK. This is the last of it. Thanks!
WHAT THE...?!
Morimoto
It looks like we'll finish up everything tomorrow.
Yeah? Where's Rei?
Whew! Sorry I'm so late, guys
PEEK
I just put on the coffee. Want some?
No thanks I've gotta get home to my wife.
Oh, OK.
KA-CHAK
WHY DID KUZE LICK ME?!

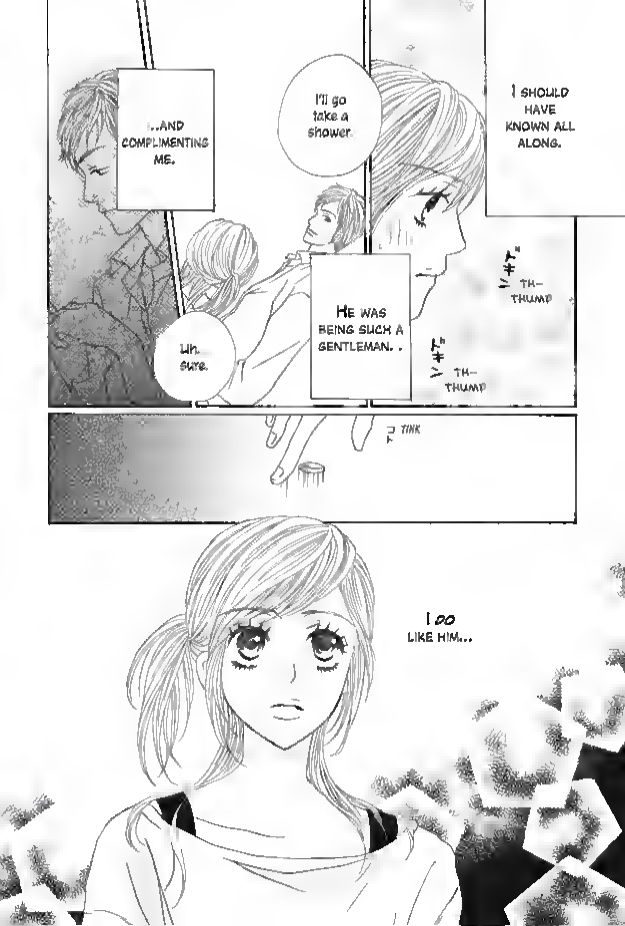
You can go on home, Koyama.
He's acting like nothing happened!
Here you go.
Thank you.
This is WAY too freaky...!
STAGGER
All right then... see you tomorrow.
BA-CLANG
Did that really happen?! It felt just like that dream.
...

Really?
Then... at long last...
TAK
It's completely finished!
You were a big help!
Good work, Koyama.
L...h PAT
All finished? Well done, guys
Thanks.
No problem!

Blabber-mouth...
See ya tomorrow.
WHY'D HE STAY HERE ALONE?
DOES THAT MEAN...?
Uh.. Rei?
I'm done for the day.
STRRREETCH
Oh, right Kuze pulled an all-nighter last night
What?!
Yes?
I've gotta deliver this to the client
and then I'm done too
As thanks for your hard work!
SMILE
How about grabbing dinner together? I promised to treat you.

How about another drink?
You deserve it.
Is this place all right? It looks expensive.
Is...?
Don't worry about it.
Uh thanks
Don't you want some too?
No thanks I have to drive.
Mind if I smoke?
No, please go ahead.
Heh heh.
You're so polite Morimoto
You're a real pleasure to be around!
Oh, am I really?
MORIMOTO'S SUCH A GENTLEMAN.

What's my problem?
Why... am I thinking about Kuze all the time?
Shall we go?
GRRRR!
By way of contrast, Kuze is a beast?
THEN
AGH! Rei?
...am I in a hotel room with Morimoto?! I must have had too much sake!
And why...


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG.
I'll go take a shower.
..AND COMPLIMENTING ME.
HE WAS BEING SUCH A GENTLEMAN. .
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
Uh. sure.
TINK
I DO LIKE HIM...

Why are the office lights on?
Hey!
You came back?
Something suddenly came up
PEEK
..BUT..
..THIS IS WRONG!

Why do you have Monmoto's office key?
Uh...
KLINK
We were hanging out and uh...
I just ran off with them!
HA HA HA
You've got his house and car keys too!
Oops...
He's right.
SHOCK
Oh... really?
He's always hitting on the new girls
Don't worry about it He deserves it

Is there anything I can help with?
I'm almost done. Just relax.
Um... I need to get myself together a little before I go home.
Do you mind if I stay?
Nah, go ahead.
WHISK
WHISK
WHISK
I DON'T REALLY FEEL *HURT*, THOUGH.
OH...
...SO *THAT'S* WHAT MORIMOTO'S TRULY LIKE
FSHUMF

I WONDER WHY?
Ugh! Whipped cream again?!
Did you finish your work?
Yeah.
Let me taste that.
This stuff's too sweet!
Don't bother I've gotten used to it
All right, all right! I'll eat over there!

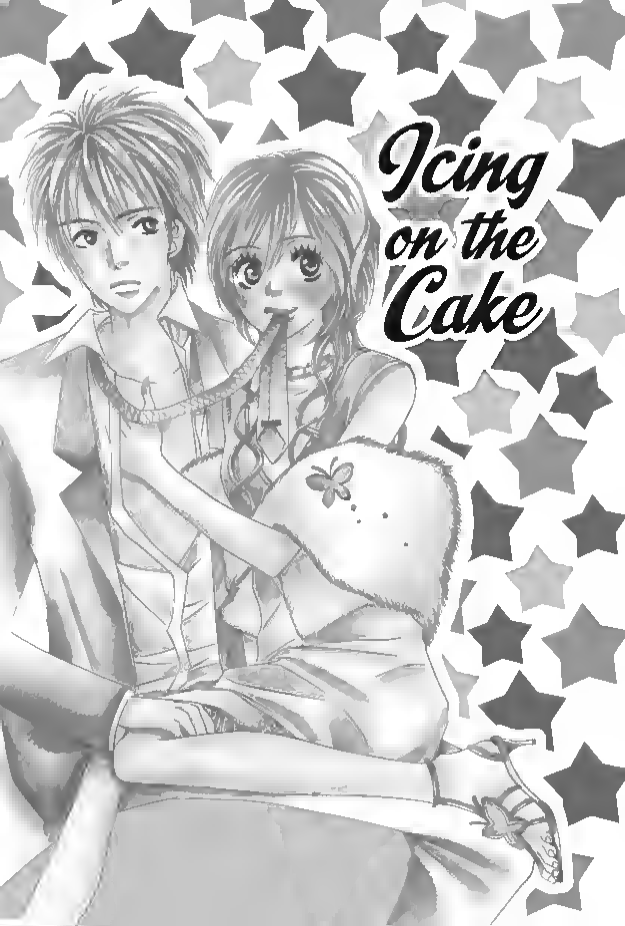
STUFF
Hmm!
fmmph?
Um...
How did...
Mm...
...mm!
But on you... it's not bad.

...THIS HAPPEN?!
SKWIK
Oooh!
I GUESS I COULDN'T ADMIT...
...MY ATTRACTION TO HIM.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE SHAKE
I'm coming in.
Ohhuhhh!
...
I RAN AWAY FROM MORIMOTO, BUT...
W..wait!

Well, look at what we're doing!
You have to ask that *now*?
Kuze...
—have you always *liked* me?
I see your point
FLICK
Uhn!
No fair!
If I didn't like you.
—I wouldn't be doing *this* to you.
...mmm...
"n..."
GOLT

Aren't you gonna say anything?
I...
I...
And what about you?
?
Ohhh!
SLIDE
You "think"?
I think...
I like you too
Hug

Well, that's all right
I'm gonna make *sure*
... that you do
Whoa! I'm all sticky!
Sorry!
You're gonna *eat* the rest?!
I don't want you to *ever*, .. have whipped cream with anyone else!
Why not?
How cute! ♡
Because it's, so sexy on you.
I THINK IT'S TIME I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE *CUSTARD* CREAM!


Icing
on the
Cake

Bit his lip
CHOMP
Yu Iwabuchi!
Will you.
go out with
me?!
You are the
moon and stars
to me!
That was three months ago. He was pretty nervous.
And?
How is it between you two these days?

His name is Junichiro Kido. He's three years younger than me.
If you must know...
That was fast!
...it's getting a little old
He seems satisfied with his part-time salary, but he's always broke!
Yeah, but you're loaded, so why worry?
I'm tired of low-budget dates!

You're horrible!
Anyway, I gotta go meet him
Maybe it's time we broke up
I am not!
14:55
He's still not here!
Maybe I should just leave.
It's been 20 minutes!
15:20
Sorry I'm late!
You're sorry?! I can't believe.
...huh?

Junichiro?!
Is it *you*?
YANK
Owow–owow–owow!!
What's with... *the suit*?!
I started a great, new job today, *that's* what...
Uh-oh!

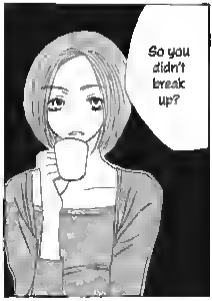
He looks super hot!!
Yep!
I wanted you to see how I look at work.
So? Do I look good?
That's all right! It's your big day! I'll treat!
We should celebrate! Let's go eat
Oh. Ok.
Thanks.
Sorry, I'm broke

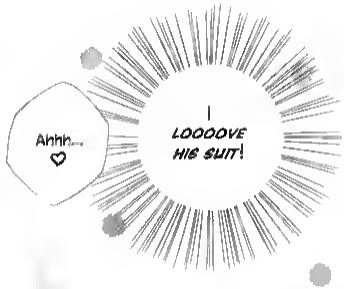
SEEING HIM IN THAT SUIT HAS MADE ME RAVENOUS!
Nope. Not at all. We're celebrating!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Uh. Isn't this way too extravagant?
HE WAS ALWAYS SORTA CUTE...
... BUT THAT SUIT PUT THE ICING ON THE CAKE!
FLUMP
Whoa, baby!

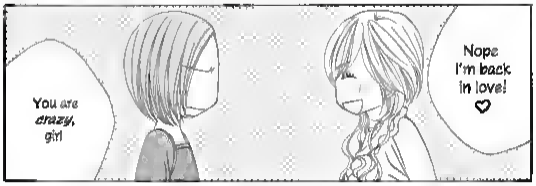
POUNCE
You're awfully horny tonight!
Is that bad?
But it's my only one. I don't want to wrinkle it.
Don't take it off!!
No! Stop!
He also looks good taking it off ..!

I LIKE YOU HERE...
...AND EVEN MORE HERE, WHERE YOUR TIE GOES.
Ooh...!
Uhhh...
.. hhnn!

PUSH!
Unnn!
Uhhhnn!
PANT
I want it NOW!
Don't undress! Just put it in!
Yu...
Yu...
He looks... SO AMAZINGLY HOT!


So you didn't break up?


Ahhh... ♡
I LOOOOVE HIS SUIT!

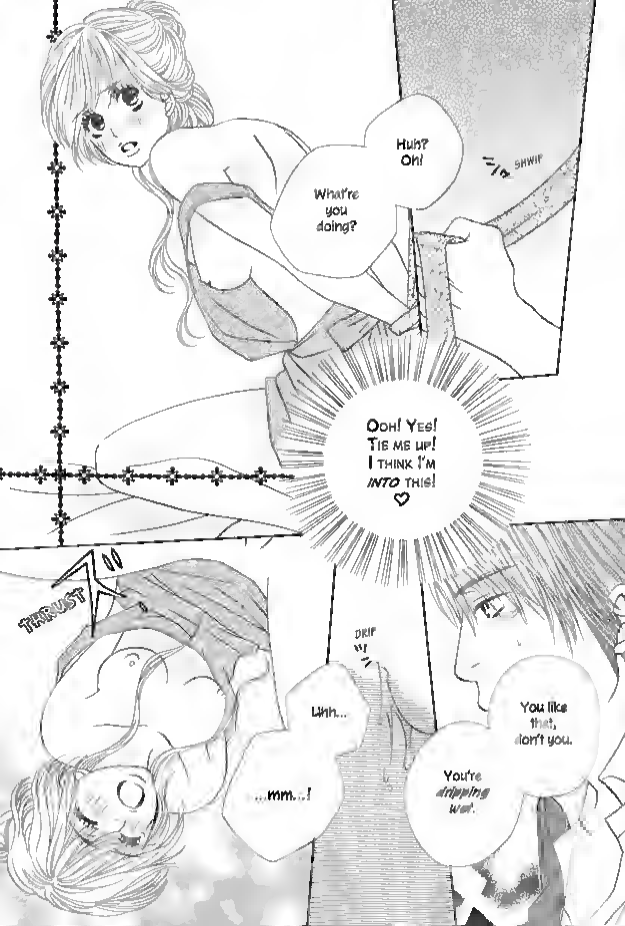

You are crazy, girl
Nope I'm back in love! ♡

♪
♫
I'VE DISCOVERED A WHOLE NEW WORLD!
TIME TO ENJOY IT!!

TIU2
GRRRM
ニヒヒ♡
You said you only have one, right?
とぉ
TA-
What's this?
They look expensive
I can't accept them.
RUSTLE
You've got to! I can't return them!
...

Sorry to bother you this morning!
See you tonight, OK?
Um... sure.
And here! I brought you this for lunch!
It's from a convenience store, but—
I'm home
Welcome back! ♡

What's with that... apron?
It's to get you up! ♡
Do you want dinner?
Or me?
クラ
SWOON
Victory!
Operation: Sex in Suit... successful!!!
ガバ
You!
Yaaaaay! ♡
POUNCED


Huh? Oh!
What're you doing?
SHWIP
Ooh! Yes! Tie me up! I think I'm INTO this! ♡
THRUST
DRIP
Uhh...
...mm...!
You like that, don't you.
You're dripping wet.

Uhn!!
Oh god!
That feels incredible!!
THRUST
THRUST
コト
KTAK
What's this?
A RING..?
I bought it with my first paycheck. It's not much, but...
Open it up and see.

TUNK
Thanks! But really, you shouldn't have!
スポ"ー!
SHUUU?
UGGHH...
スーン
It looks CHEAP...
I only need you in your suit

D... Don't be silly!
FLINCH
Yu, it seems like.
—you're fixated on my suits.
Oh, uh—
I thought your feelings toward me,
—changed because you wanted to encourage me in my new job
Uh-oh!!
It's almost as if you like the suits more than me.

I felt like I wasn't good enough for you before, but I wanted to be with you *forever*...
...so I was doing my best to grow up and be more mature...
...but *you* were just obsessed with my *suits*.
Jun..
I think you should leave now.
KA-CHAK
SOLT

I was being so nice to him! Does the reason matter?
What's his problem?!
I feel so stupid.
So I like suits!!
Is that so wrong?
There are lots of guys out there in suits!
うDA~ しDA~ ★ DUM!!
Good evening, ladies!

Good evening!
Suits...
... and MORE suits!
This place is like a clothing store FILLED with SUITS!
That guy's suit is pretty hot.
And that guy's, too.

He he. That's not true!
I can tell by the way you dress.
Don't be modest.
So how come I don't care?
Yu, I heard you're a real *princess*.

sst
Huh?!
I'm *leaving*!
Whaddaya say we go back to my place?
And you're smoking hot

Those hands projecting from white cuffs...
Those chests exposed by open collars...
Those necks encircled by silk ties...
None of them do a thing for me!
LOW PRICES
CELL PHONES
@au
Thanks for your business!
This is his great, new job?!
Huh?!
Junichiro?!!

I DIDN'T EVEN ASK WHAT HIS JOB WAS OR WHERE HE WAS WORKING...
PRICES, CELL PHONES...
But he looks
...radiant.
ALL OF MY OTHER BOYFRIENDS...
...ONLY CARED ABOUT MY LOOKS OR MY MONEY.

NOBODY EVER SAID HE WANTED TO BE WITH ME FOREVER.
I can't believe he would do all of this for me

Mr. Kido? There's someone here to see you.
Yes?
THUD
How can I help u-?
Why are you dressed like that?
And why are you here?
I worked in an art gallery today
I need a new cell phone.

I helped out at an exhibition.
It was only for one day.
And they paid me, so...
TA-DA!!
—here
Rip
Rip
Hm? What's this?
A necktie.

Wearing a suit makes a person *feel* sharp
That's why they look so good
Maybe you're right

But when I *see other* guys in suits, I don't feel a thing.
I only get hot over *you*!
THUMP
Help me! *I'm on fire down there!*
Not so loud! Please!

How can I resist you,
...when you turn me on the way you do?
You're the only one for me, too.

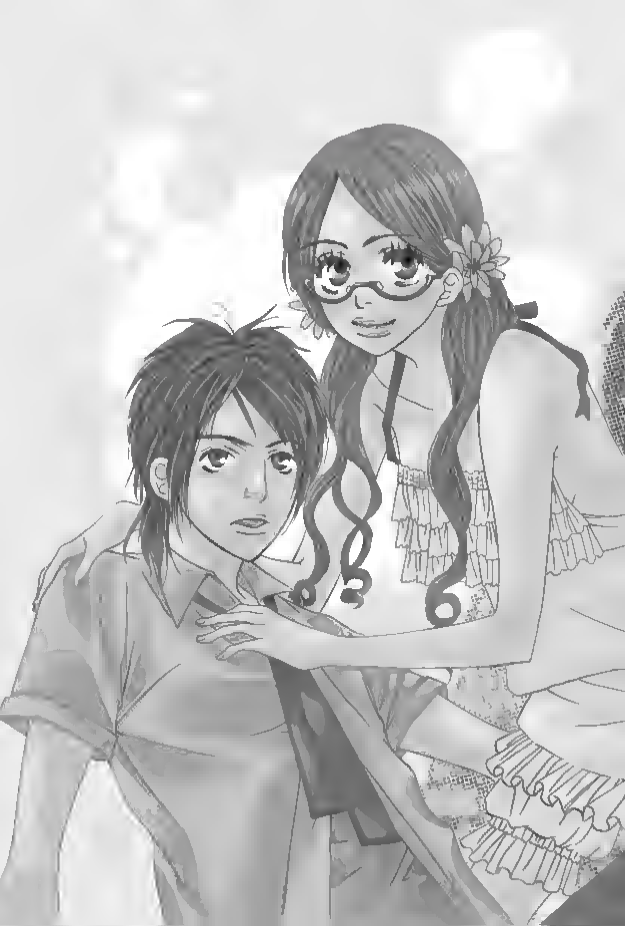
So we're perfect for each other
Mm.
mmm.

Your clothes are really sexy!
What are you--?
Hey!
RUSTLE
TOUCH
You're so wet.
Yes!
Oooh..!

Aah...! Yeah...!
Uhhm... ...mmm!
Huh?
Don't take it off!
No! Stop!
Wait! My suit's in the way
Lemme get out of this

We really are perfect for each other.

Bubblegum
Princess



Mayuki was the boy who used to live next door to me.
Hey! Leave her alone!
You're a little freak!
Waaah! Mayuki, help me!
He was a charming and handsome prince...
...who fought valiantly against evil.
That's good.
He would always protect me from the neighborhood bullies
Yeah, I'm OK.
Are you OK, Shina?

TH-THUMP
ドキ
TH-THUMP
ドキ
AND...
...HE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE

Mom, don't be silly!
I've got a prince outfit for him! You'll be a pair!
TH THUMP
It's been ten years since his family moved away
He must be a fine young man by now!
ピンポーン
DING DONG
!!

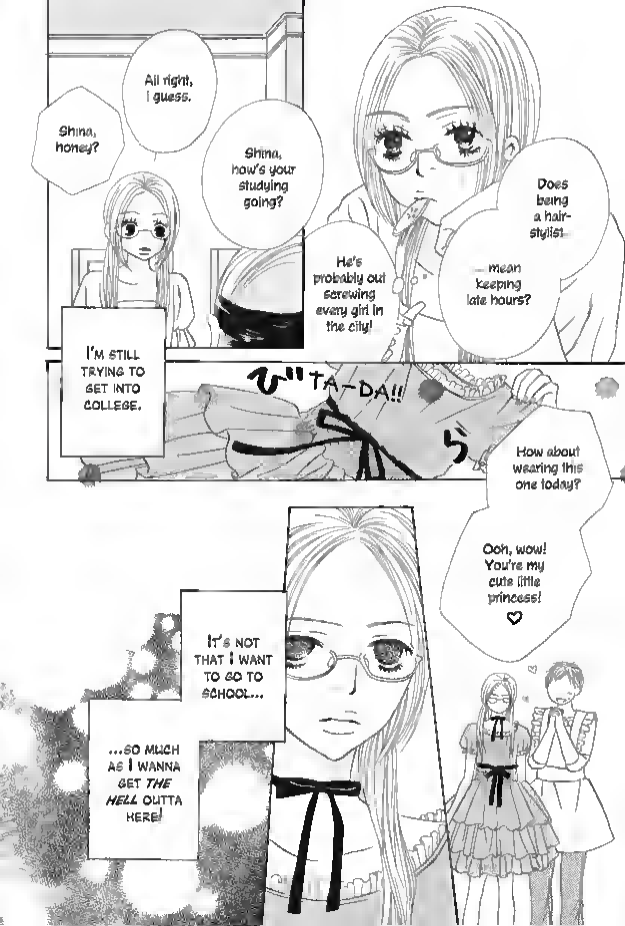
KA-CHAK
Come on in!
Yo, whassup?
Been awhile, huh?
CRUMBLE
SHATTER

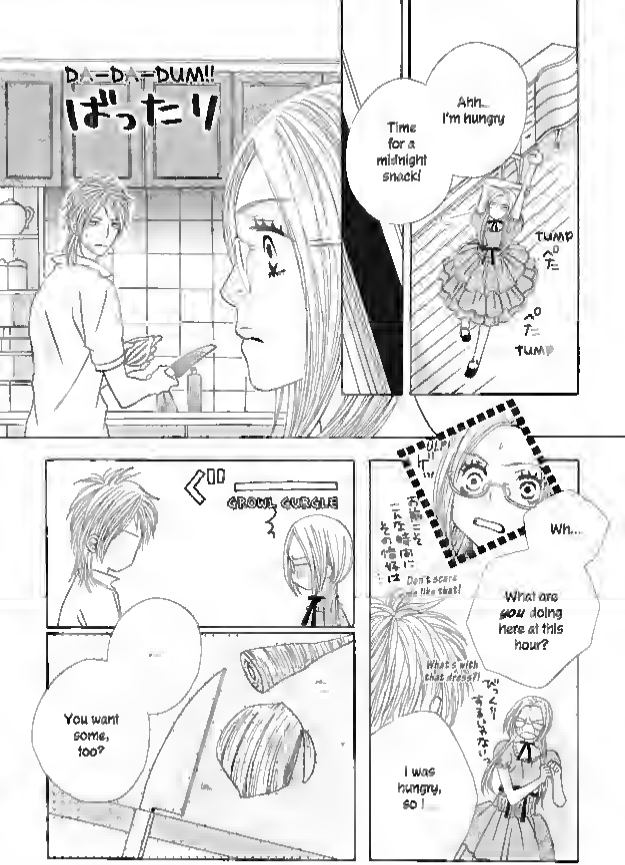
My mother's hobby is doll collecting. This all began at a doll shop that she frequents.
She ran into Mayuki's mother who had come two hours by Shinkansen to pick up a limited edition dress!
EEEEEEE!
YAAAAAY!
They got to talking...
...and decided that Mayuki, who'd found a job at a hair salon near here, would come stay with us.
Hmph! I'm the same age as he is! You should have consulted me!
-GRUMBLE-
GRUMBLE

THAT'S BECAUSE...
...I THOUGHT I WOULD SEE MY CHARMING *PRINCE* AGAIN.
But, honey, I didn't hear you *objecting*!
...
I FEEL SO *DISAPPOINTED*.
Don't worry, you two will get along! I see that things have changed a little...
Well, it's too bad about the prince outfit...
Excuse me?! "A little"?!
Um, sorry to butt in—

Shina...
STARE
Yes?
Oh, over here.
Where can I put my dirty laundry?
Uh... yes?
Huh?
Dude, you haven't changed at all!
HA-HA-HA-HA!!

KTINK
KTINK
I didn't know Mayuka was already here!
He leaves early and comes home late.
And you're never here either, dear
HA! HA HA!
What hair?!
Maybe I should have him cut my hair!
AND THAT'S HOW A FORMER PRINCE CAME TO LIVE WITH US.
HOW INSULTING!
KA CHAK

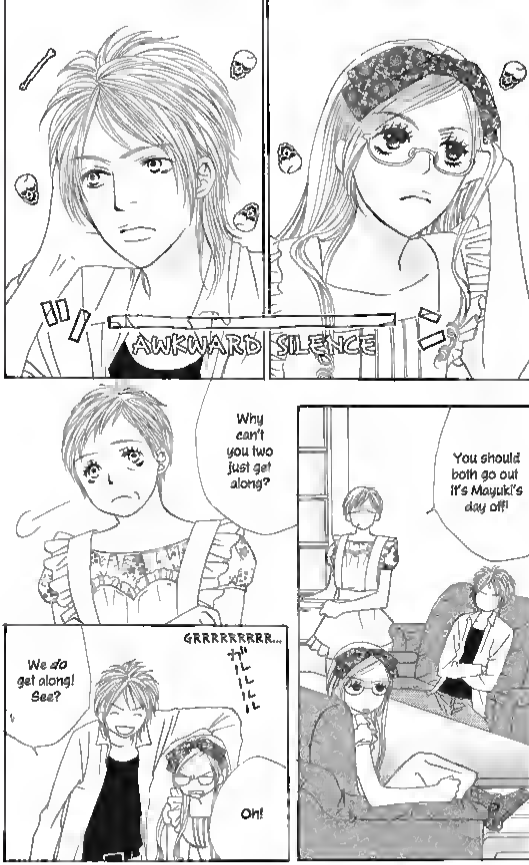

All right, I guess.
Shina, honey?
Shina, how's your studying going?
Does being a hair-stylist mean keeping late hours?
He's probably out screwing every girl in the city!
I'M STILL TRYING TO GET INTO COLLEGE.
TA-DA!!
How about wearing this one today?
Ooh, wow! You're my cute little princess! ♡
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL...
...SO MUCH AS I WANNA GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!


D-D-DUM!!
ばったり
Ahh... I'm hungry
Time for a midnight snack!
TUMP
TUMP
GROWL GURGLE
You want some, too?
Wh...
What are you doing here at this hour?
What's with that dress?!
I was hungry, so!

How come you always come home so late?
I study hairstyling after the shop closes
And? What have you been doing?
Hey, this is good!
Sure, thanks.
This late?
Like I believe that!
I have to if I wanna get into the school of my choice.
I've been studying too.
Yeah... you're always studying.

Huh...?
WHAT?
And I'm not dressed like this 'cause I like it, you know!
My mother treats me like I'm one of her little *dress-up dolls*!
I have no say in the matter!
WHY AM I...
...TELLING THIS TO *HIM*?
That's why I chose an elite school, far away from home.
I'm going to leave and become a *real person*!

SNAP
What would *you* know about it?!
Or is this some kinda silent cry for attention?
If you don't like it, why don't you tell her so?
KTINK
CHAK
I take what I said back.
You *have* changed
BOMFF!
What's *he* all *high and mighty* about?!
Take that, *Mayuki Bear*!
BOMFF
BOMFF


AWKWARD SILENCE
Why can't you two just get along?
You should both go out It's Mayuki's day off!
We do get along! See?
GRRRRRRRRR...
Oh!

SLAM
Mom, wait!!
Have fun, you two!
toss
Then go out on a date or something!
FLAP
Are you kidding? Here, you take the money
Well, whaddaya wanna do?
We're not really going on a date, are we?
Well, uh...

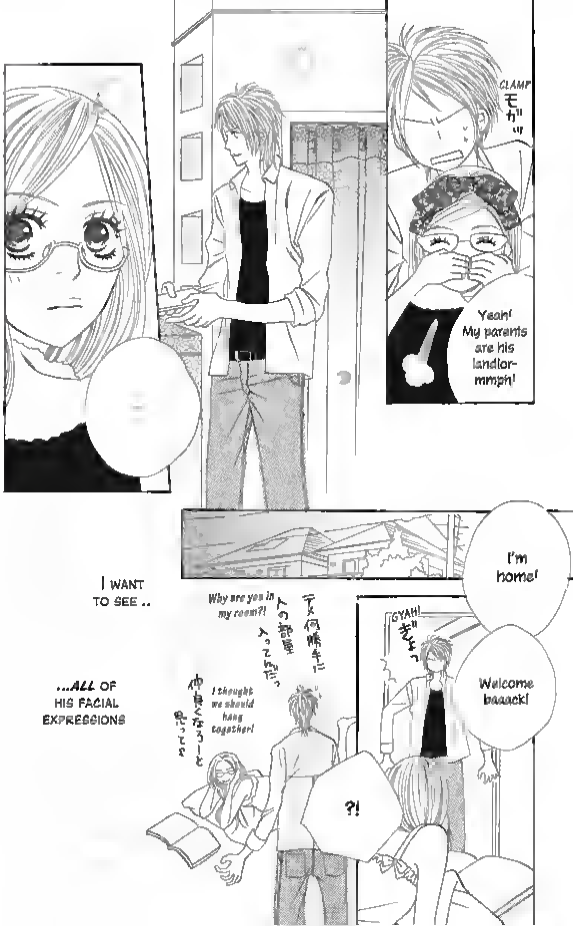
.. how about going to a love hotel?
ぶっ
Say What?!!
FLINCH
What?!!
You.. can't be serious
Shouldn't we learn to get along?
STOMP
Quit playing around with me!

He didn't have to get so angry
I was only JOKING...
I wouldn't touch the princess anyway!
Got it?
Yeah, this is Mayuki
Sure, I can be there.
huh?
One of the stylists got sick. I need to go help out at the salon
Really?
Yeah Use all the money yourself
See ya.
STOMP STOMP
Wait!

I don't need your stupid excuses!
Aargh!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WORKS.
I'LL FOLLOW HIM!
Wow!
He looks like a real stylist!

VERY PROFESSIONAL.
AND WHEN HE SMILES...
.. HE LOOKS LIKE HE *USED* TO.
He never smiles around *me* anymore!
I THINK...
...THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS EVER ..
...*YELLED* AT ME LIKE THAT.

FLOUNCE FLOUNCE
Lin-oh!
I think he saw me.
!!
I can't believe you.
Do you know her?
There's nothing else I can do but go in!
CREAK
Hi, do I need an appointment?

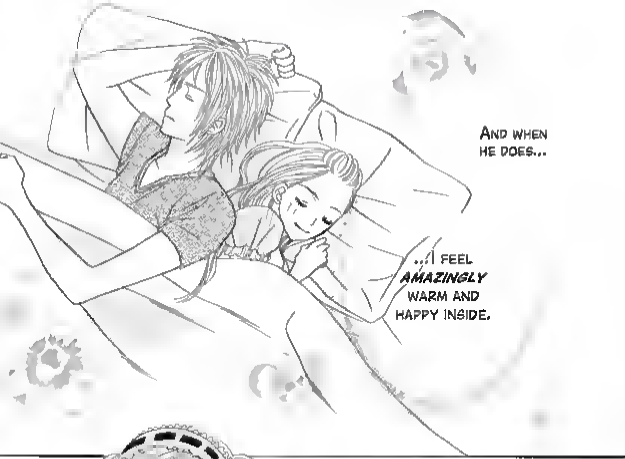

CLAMP
モカ"
Yeah! My parents are his landlor-
mmph!
I'm home!
GYAH!
ぎゃよ"
Welcome baaack!
?!
Why are you in my room?!
人の部屋に入ってんだ、
I thought we should hang together!
仲良くなろーと思って。
I WANT TO SEE ..
...ALL OF HIS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Oh, for chrissake!
Every day is a bit much! Don't you think?
Well, excuuuse you.
Is that any way to treat a regular customer?
Thanks for waiting!
What's up, Naito? ♡
Don't sweat it, Mayuki We don't mind at all
Why won't you wash my hair, Mayuki?
I'm gonna come here until you do!

Man, spoiled chicks are the worst!
Oh well, Hirata does a great job!
Thanks!
KA-CHAK
Can you afford to come to the salon every day?
Even a shampoo costs money. Plus, you need time to study.
Huuh?!
Are you worrying about me?
Would it be wrong if I were?

And another thing. Sleep in your own room tonight
Nope!
Why should I?
Because my back hurts from sleeping on the floor!
ZZZ
ZZZ
How did this happen?
Good idea huh?
Then sleep in the bed with me!
What?!!

I KNOW WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENS
WHEN I FALL ASLEEP AT HIS DESK...
...HE CARRIES ME TO HIS BED.
THEN HE WATCHES ME SLEEP.
HE SMILES, LOVINGLY.


AND WHEN HE DOES...
...I FEEL AMAZINGLY WARM AND HAPPY INSIDE.

You do nails here too, right?
Do mine!
We do it in a separate room!
Sure, come on in!
OK!
Are you ever gonna wash her hair?

I'm Chika. First I'll do your cuticles.
Thanks
I really shouldn't
CHEW CHEW
CHOMP CHOMP
Is she chewing *gum*?
. . . how much *trouble* you're causing?
But— I don't come here during your busy hours, right?
Don't you know—
In front of a customer?
SHFF
SHFF

I don't mean for the salon. I mean for Mayuki
He's staying at your house, isn't he?
That's why he can't tell you himself
URG!
And? What's it got to do with *you*?
I feel *sorry* for him!
PUFF!
Don't you understand?! He doesn't *like* you!
You creepy little Lolita *freak*!
!!

Enjoy your bubblegum!
SNIKT!!
How could you?! Why don't you just fuck off, bitch?!

Shina?!
BAM
Shina?
Whoa...
FLICK
Uh...
I was gonna get it out later with ice.
The gum was just a threat
I cut it myself
Chika, what did you do to her?!
I'm sorry!

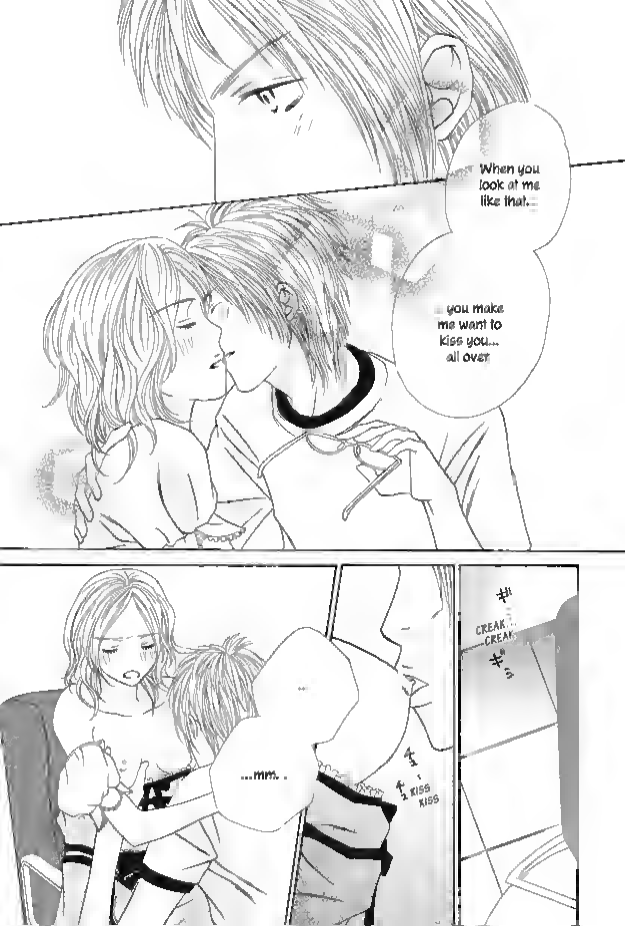
She needs to go Mind if I walk her home?
I shouldn't have cut my hair
You can get it out?!
Anyway, let me even it up
Sure. No problem
Of course I am, dummy!
KLANK
Take off that hoodie!
RATTLE
Mayuki?
Are you upset?

FLAP
I could've helped you! I was in the next room!
I'm gonna cut your hair...
...even though I wanted to wait until I got better at it.
TIP
DROP
So...
I'm still learning, but...
...I'm sure I can make you look great!

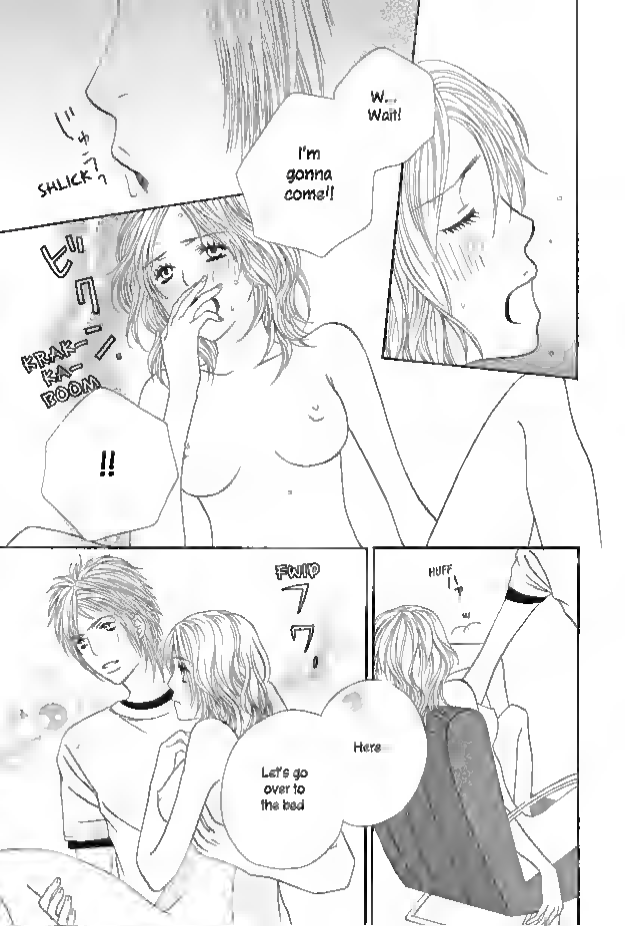
SNIKT
SNIKT
SNIKT
SNIKT
..don't cry

This is weird.
He's only cutting my hair...
...but I'm getting excited...
FIDGET
...by the way he's TOUCHING me.
TREMBLE!

I WANT HIM TO TOUCH ME EVERYWHERE.
All done!
Wow..
FINISH
Thank you.
Mayuki.
Shina..


When you look at me like that...
...you make me want to kiss you... all over
...mm...
KISS KISS
CREAK...
CREAK...

I wanna see how big you've grown up, too!
I see you've grown up
GRAB
STROKE
RUB
Oh!
TREMBLE
Ummmm
Oh my god, yes!
Yes! Lick me!
LICK...


W... Wait!
I'm gonna come!!
SHLICK
KRAK-KA-BOOM
!!
HUFF
Here
Let's go over to the bed

Mayuki...
Yes?
He's carrying me to bed...
.. but this time, it's not to sleep.
I love you.
You dummy...

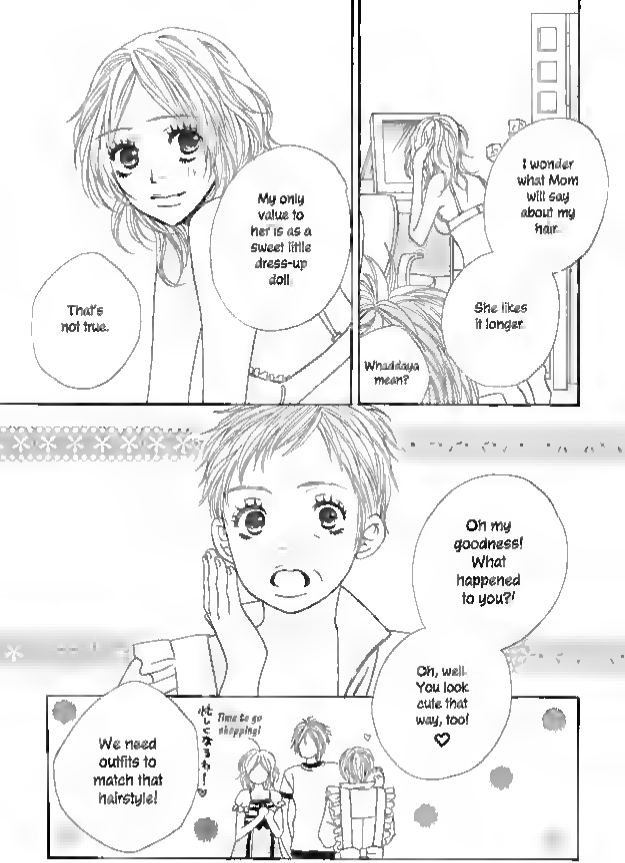
LICK
KISS
Oh, yes! That feels.
...so good...!
SHUCK
EVERYTHING IS BLURRY...
I want you inside me!
...I've loved you for ten whole years.
Understand?

THRUST
...BUT I CAN FEEL EVERYTHING.
OK, here goes.
I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE INSIDE ME.
Ahhhh!!
THRUST
RAM
Uhn!
Was that it?
Are you all right?

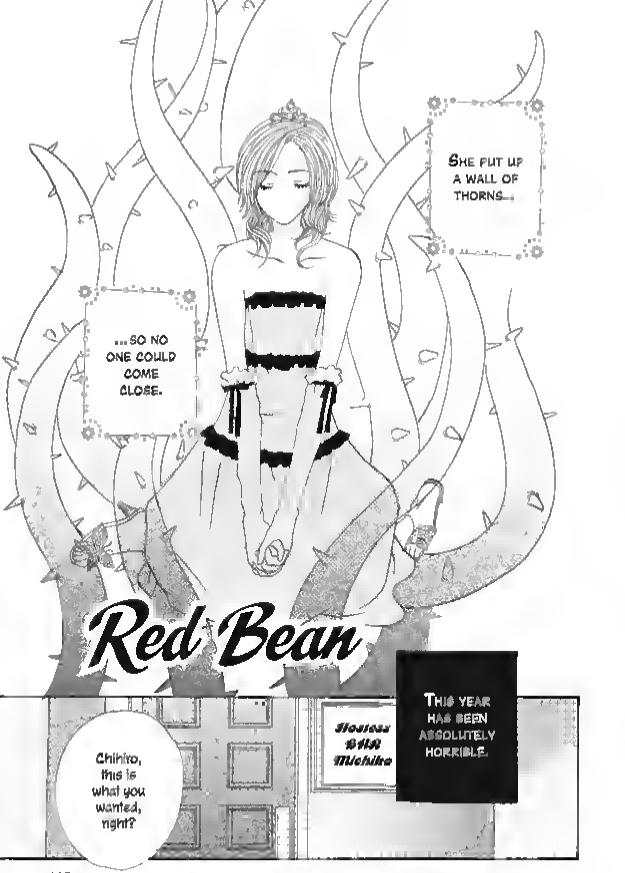
I'm touching the princess after all.
But I can't help myself
Don't stop
I want you to do whatever you want to me!
JUST DON'T STOP!
OH MY GOD, JUST DON'T STOP!
Oh, yes! Fuck me!
THRUST
THRUST

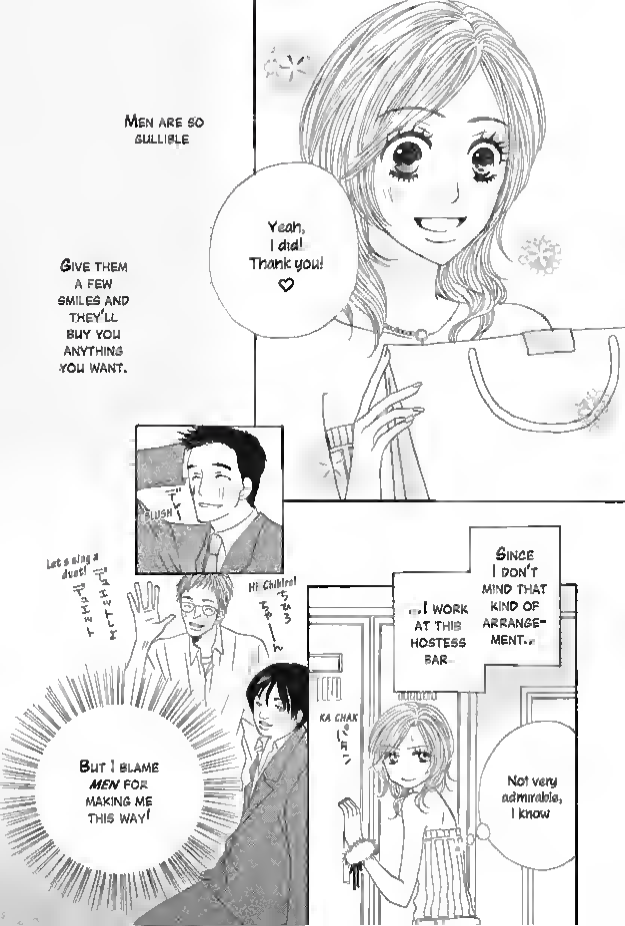
I'M NO PRINCESS.
ドクン

Shouldn't you be getting back to work?
They sent me a text saying I don't need to.
I'm all yours


That's not true.
My only value to her is as a sweet little dress-up doll.
I wonder what Mom will say about my hair.
She likes it longer.
Whaddaya mean?
Oh my goodness! What happened to you?!
Oh, well. You look cute that way, too! ♡
We need outfits to match that hairstyle!
Time to go shopping!

WHY COULDN'T I SEE THAT?
SPEECHLESS IS IT
See? It's obvious!
Your mom loves you because you're YOU
MY GLASSES DIDN'T HELP ME TO SEE AT ALL.
FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO LOOK WITH MY HEART
THE WORLD IS A SWEETER PLACE THAN I EVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE.


She put up a wall of thorns...
...so no one could come close.
Red Bean
This year has been absolutely horrible.
Hostess Miss Michiko
Chihiro, this is what you wanted, right?


Men are so gullible
Yeah, I did! Thank you! ♡
Give them a few smiles and they'll buy you anything you want.
FLUSH!
Let's sing a duet!
Hi Chihiro!
But I blame MEN for making me this way!
Since I don't mind that kind of arrangement...
...I work at this hostess bar...
KA CHAK
Not very admirable, I know

I never let the girl pay
That's my rule.
DOOOOM
Oh, these? They're just some silly pranks
PAY UP!
OR DIE!
THE BOYFRIEND I MET IN JANUARY WAS RECKLESS WITH MONEY.
Hey, could you lend me $100?
I'm not giving you a cent, this month!
And every month!
I know you're in shock!
Forget about paying me back. Let's break up
SAM
PAM
THE BOYFRIEND I MET IN MAY WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE
Oh.
Well, I'll cook for you then! ♡
You're not going home over the break?
I'm too busy. I never go home.
MY BOYFRIEND IN SEPTEMBER...
We'll split everything.
You're my equal.
BA-DOOM
My mom's cooking is better.

TA-DA!!
I brought you dinner! ♡
I guess I was "equal" to OTHER WOMEN.
Uhn!
Uhn...
Falling in love makes you blind to your partner's faults.
You just get hurt, so it's better not to fall in love in the first place
That's why I'll NEVER...
...fall in love again!
WISH
Excuse me. Would you like to come to-?
It's cold out here!

Chihiro Sawaki?!
Oh.
—hi, Bean
It's good to see you again. I'm looking for Kurokiya. Do you know where it is?
Yeah. It's over there on the right
Thanks.
What are you handing out?
Flyers for the bar where I work. Come by sometime!
You can have your own bestie!

REFUSAL
拒否!!
I'm, uh... the conservative type.
I don't go to places like that!
赤、
FEET RED
See ya!
ESCAPE
逃亡
He barely looked at it!
ちらっと見ただけ!
It's not that expensive.
そんなに高くないよ
What's his deal?
This hyper is kind of tacky—
このビラ、ちょっとダサいよね
Aww, man...
...maybe he thought it was a strip joint
The Prettiest Girls in Town!
Jealous Bitch Michiko

Bean's real name is Yoshinori.
He's in the ceramics department at my university.
I'm in design, so we hardly ever meet, but...
Hen
What's "the conservative type"?
There goes our school celebrity!
Hen hen...
Awhile back
This concludes the School Festival
Crackle
Crackle
Pop
Good job, everyone.
Art Spirit!
Fssssh
Put it out!
Fwoosh
Whoa!
Agh!

I wonder how he remembered my name so quickly
NEXT DAY
His beard
RUMBLE...
looks like a bean!
EVER SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN FAMOUS AT SCHOOL.
I GUESS I'M...
...SOMEWHAT WELL-KNOWN MYSELF.
Do they talk about me at school?
Did you see Chihiro's new ...?

I hardly ever come to school, but when I do—
I can't go out there now
出られないよ
Looks like her night job is paying off!
Can you believe it?
I saw!
Ah ha ha!
Yeah It's the same expensive brand as her wallet!
In our department...
...the rumor is that I'm a stripper.
It is a "night job" but...

FWIP
What a dickhead.
I don't spread stories about him!
AND I KNOW WHERE THE RUMOR CAME FROM.
Hey!
Miss Chihiro Sawaki!
Uh... just call me Chihiro. What's up?
OK...? Sure...
Wanna have lunch with me?
I'll buy!
SHABBY

Pot stickers and two bowls of ramen, please!
A dive like this isn't what I had in mind...
I'll survive though
So? Did you want to talk about something?
Pot stickers?! How romantic
You decided for me?!
Ahem
I know it's none of my business, but...
...I won't feel right until I say something
I have great respect for women
They should prize themselves above all else!
There, I said it

Bean, are you a virgin?
SPLOOEY
No they're not!
Even your ears are turning red!
CHOKE
GAG
Whoa! You're so direct!
Water! I need water!
Shall I teach you sometime?
KRASSH
SMILE
I was just kidding! Chill out!
Oh good Whew!
ALL I DO...
...is SERVE DRINKS!

Oh?
Hey, look!
It's Chihiro!
Sure..
Maybe I should drop it He's too funny!
SLUMP
Thanks for lunch. I'll treat next time.
GRAB
Bean, you're too *pure* for her!
Don't get dirty!
What gives?
I'm pure?
Knock it off!
When I think about Bean, I can't help but laugh
Heh heh
Did something good happen to you?
You're in a good mood today, Chihiro
There's nothing bad about Chihiro
Naaaa!!
You'll be violated!

Bean *acts* innocent.

. . .but who knows what he's *really* thinking?

Hey, Bean!

FLOMP
I'll only go if we split the bill
Why's that?
SCRATCH
You sold your body for that money
You should spend it on yourself
This is not the season to be eating outside!
MUNCH
MUNCH
Well it's too late to change plans now!
You know how I feel about your job
Can't you quit?
No
Why should I?

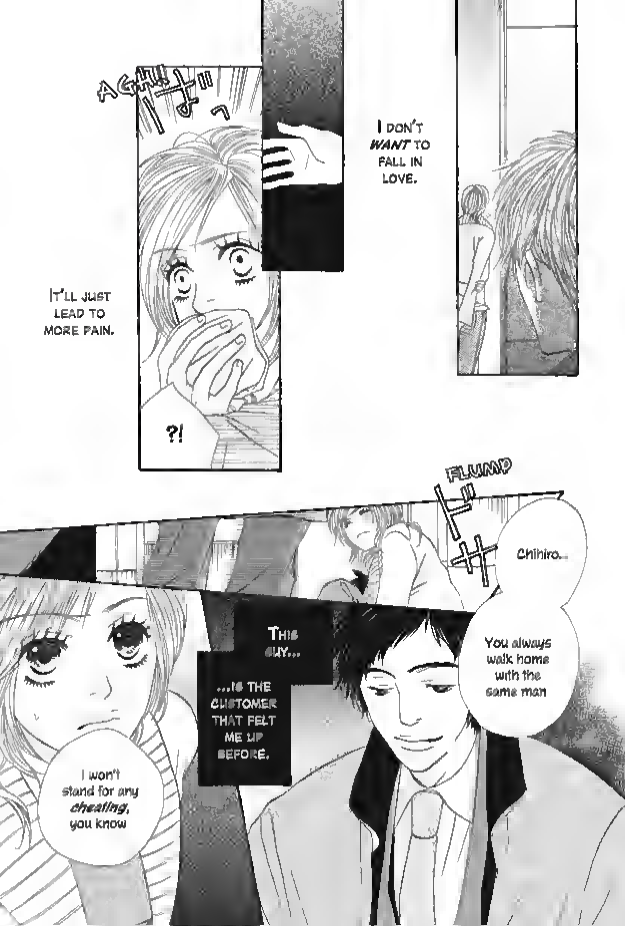
I don't understand.
Why would you do that?
I'll walk you to work and back.
It's my duty!
Then I'll be your bodyguard
You'll what?!
What a freakin' drama queen...!
DA-DUM!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!!
I can't just leave you alone and defenseless.
I would see you through the pits of Hell if necessary!
FROM THAT DAY ON...
...BEAN ALWAYS WALKED ME TO WORK.
HE WALKED ME HOME, TOO.

GROWWWL
RUMBLE
He'll see all those love hotels...
...and suggest that we go in and "hang out."
Next, he'll try to get into my pants
Men are all the same.
Udon?!
Shall we go for some udon?
...really IS pure.
Before I knew it, we were BUDDIES.
Or maybe this guy...
SLURP
SLURP

Sean?
PEEK
CERAMICS
It was refreshing.
He's late.
TH-THWAP
Whew! It's a hot is here!
TH-THWAP

ZUNG
DID I JUST...
—GET WET?
BLUSSSH
TAK TAK TAK TAK
DESIGN
Chihiro?
She left?!
Whoa..
I didn't notice the time.

No, no! I'm fine!
It's no use.
Chihiro
...you seem a little down tonight
I can't fake it tonight.
I keep thinking about Bean.
Damn!
It's almost like...
SKRASSH
Chihiro, why don't you go home early?
You're not yourself
OK. thanks.


AGHH!!
I DON'T WANT TO FALL IN LOVE.
IT'LL JUST LEAD TO MORE PAIN.
?!
FLUMP
Chihiro...
You always walk home with the same man
THIS GUY...
...IS THE CUSTOMER THAT FELT ME UP BEFORE.
I won't stand for any cheating, you know

Perhaps I should.. discipline you
SHEFF
Some-thing's wrong...
...WITH THIS guy!
You're mine, right?
What?! Are you seri--?
No, stop it!
Hold still, now...
You do like me, don't you?
You like it when I touch you!
WHY WON'T MEN JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
Bean!

WHAM
Stay away from her!
Bean!
Ugh...
Huh?!
Bean?
He came...
...looking for me?
You disappeared...
...so I got worried!

I can't take it anymore...
H-Hey...
...are you all right?
FLUMP
I was scared.
Really scared...
He's won my heart.
I've fallen for him
I should have told the owner.
Huh? What do you mean?
No, he's a customer.
He touched me once before.
Shouldn't we call the police?

It's only a hostess bar.
Am I missing something here?
Touching is off limits.
Huh—
...It is?!
SLUMP
Ever the drama queen!
So now you have no reason...
...to worry about me.
Well, why didn't you tell me that before?!
I thought...!

Chihiro...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Now that I know my true feelings...
...I should break it off.
This is what's best for me.
I think...
So maybe we shouldn't see each other anymore.
You don't understand
I can't let you go
Why not?

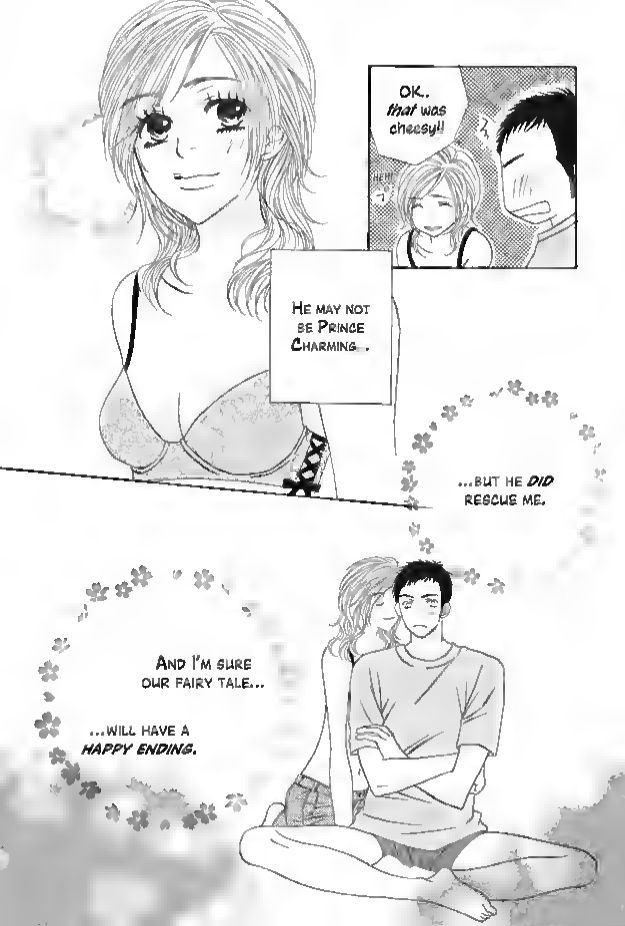
Even before the other night...
...I'd seen you a few times at school...
...and I'd heard the rumors...
You were always in high heels...
...and you looked so fragile.
I couldn't look away
In other words...
...well, you know...

Bean, you deserve somebody much better!
There's nobody better!
I only want *you*!
CAN I TRUST HIM?

Sorry, if I'm rushing you in any way...
HUFF
You're too sweet
WHEN HE TOUCHES ME...
Mm...
, SIGH

Oooh... Bean...!
Ahh!
...I CAN FEEL MY DEFENSES...
...FALLING AWAY...

BEAN...
Uhn!
THRUST
...ISN'T LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.
I'm afraid of that pervert
Maybe I should quit the bet.
YIPPEE!
Yes, you should!
People should share romance after the sun goes down!


OK.. that was cheesy!!
He may not be Prince Charming...
...but he DID rescue me.
And I'm sure our fairy tale...
...will have a HAPPY ENDING.

Sweet
Future

I've taken all the money.
They'll never find me. My apologies.
– The President
My name's Natsumi Shinoda, and I'm in deep shit.
Right now, I only have about $100 in the bank.
No way..!
It's been one month since I finally got a job...
...and I was desperately looking forward to my first paycheck.

Hello and welcome, Natsumi!
.. JOSEPH, MY FORTUNE-TELLER!
How can I help you today?
I go visit...
And in times of deep shit
Um... tell me about my career outlook.
Our company president suddenly vanished and I lost my job
Huh?!
Didn't you just get that job?
Uh-huh...
JOSEPH'S ADVICE HELPS ME OUT.
I see. Give me your hand.

He shows me the way.
I NEED him because I'm so indecisive.
Maybe I should ask about my boyfriend.
You two are perfect for each other.
Hey! Don't let go of my hand!
YAY!
Just what I wanted to hear!
You might spend your WHOLE LIFE with him.
My boyfriend, Takashi, works for a major corporation. He's got a bright future
Joseph said I shouldn't miss my chance to grab him...
Hmm... what's this I see?
...so I went to this party and we hooked up.

Thank you very much!
I'll take your advice!
About your job... be patient and take time in your search.
A path will open before you.
He's showing me the way...
...to brighter days!
Ok right
OK. that'll be twenty dollars
Natsumi
...what's this?

More fortune-telling nonsense?
Couldn't we have sushi? You got paid, didn't you?
It's natto curry!
My lucky item for today is natto!

Huh?!!
HEH
The president skipped town with all the money and uh...

Will you be able to manage?
Oh, sure!
My fortune-teller said not to worry. I'll find a job...no problem.
So you're... unemployed?
NOD

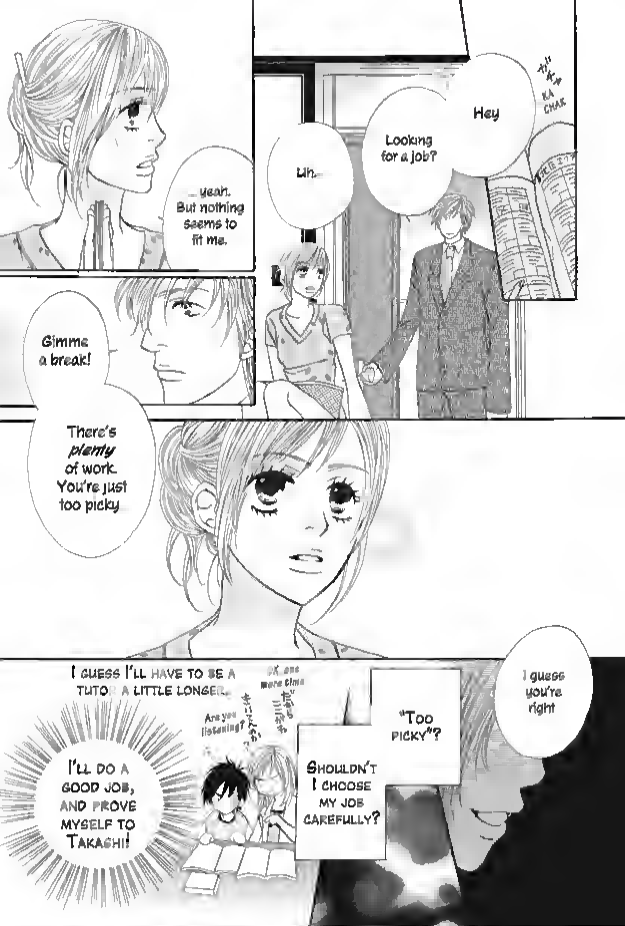
Oh, here's an idea.
He's never indecisive about anything
— so he doesn't *need* a fortune-teller
We're exact opposites
He's obsessed with economy and efficiency.
You don't have time to waste on fortune-telling!
You should be out searching for a job!
Why not do some tutoring for a while?
One of the executives at work is looking for a tutor for his eighteen-year-old son
I don't know—
Come on, you can do it!
The pay's not bad, and you need the money
Well, OK—

What an awesome house.
Is he a rich geek?
Her imagination
Don't make me laugh!
I can't believe you're my tutor!
Hee hee~ Sheesh~
I'm Ryo
Nice to meet you.
What a relief! He's normal!
I'm Natsumi Shinoda.
HMM... HIS GRADES ARE GOOD.
OK, here.
First, show me your tests and your grades

STARE
BUT...
...WHAT'S WITH THE INTENSE STARE?
THIS SHOULD BE EASY!
Um, mind if I use your bathroom?
SLAM!
CHAK-!
ABIDE FROM THE STARING, HE'S ALL RIGHT. I CAN DO THIS!
Yes!
Maybe it's because he goes to an all-boys school.

It's not locked
Mind if I come in?
So she's good with her tongue?!
That's what I call sex ed!
Come on! Go home!
That rocks, having a horny babe for a tutor!
SILENCE...
MAYBE HE'S JUST NOT USED TO BEING AROUND GIRLS
HE'LL GET USED TO ME.
DING DONG
...?
KA-CHAK
Agh!!
N-Natsumi they were just leaving
SNICKER
SNICKER

THIS DIRTY BRAT!
Oh really?
I think you were bragging about more than that!
Uh, sorry about that.
I was sort of bragging about your good looks
It's just... I can't stop thinking about you.
I think I'm in love with you...!
FLINCH
FLINCH
DA-DUM
Please, forgive me!!
I must! I must!
...QUIT THIS JOB! AND SOON!
I ABSOLUTELY MUST...


Hey
Looking for a job?
Uh...
...yeah. But nothing seems to fit me.
Gimme a break!
There's plenty of work. You're just too picky
I guess you're right
"Too picky"?
Shouldn't I choose my job carefully?
I guess I'll have to be a tuto[illegible] a little longer...
OK one more time
Are you listening?
I'll do a good job, and prove myself to Takachi!

SMILE
にこっ。
OK, that's enough for today
ぷいっ
FLUSH
You must be hungry.
I'll make us something to eat.
Oh, uh...
—I couldn't
But I will.
I can't even afford good food lately.
I guess I can mooch off a student to survive.
ポリポリ
FLIP

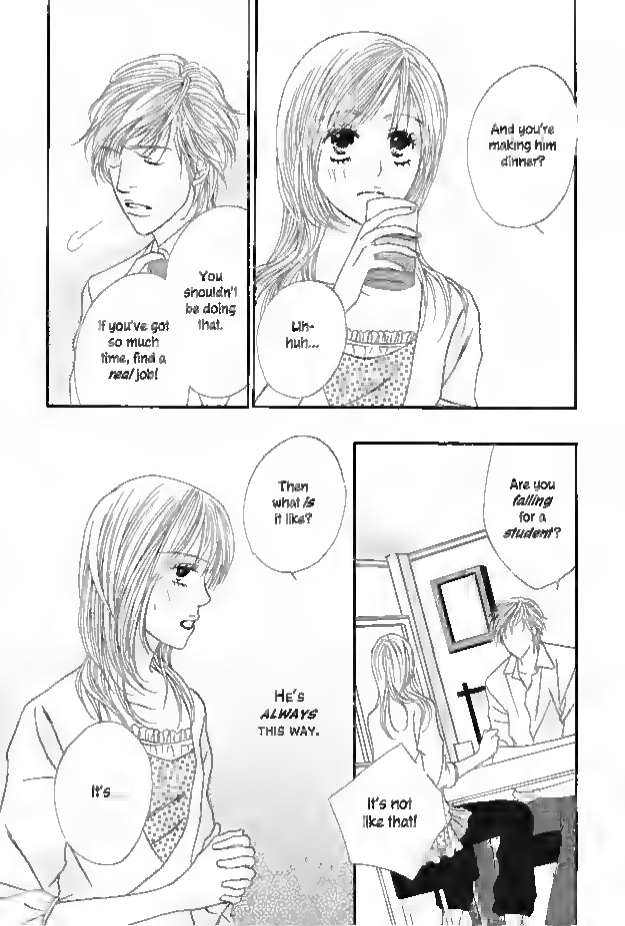
Look! It's in!
What'll ya have? I've got a broad selection!
Uh thanks
Is this all you eat? It's unhealthy!
It's a pain to eat out, though
In the morning, the maid prepares breakfast.
Like donuts
May I look in your refrigerator?
Cup noodles?!
I'm not much of a cook, though
SQUIRT
Yeah, Mom's never home.
... but she leaves money on the table for me.

I hope it's all right...
Whoa...
...this looks amazing!
Chow time!
GOBBLE GOBBLE
Good work, Teach!
Dee-licious!
Yeah, it's great!
Wow! Rice and everything!

After that...
...I made dinner and we ate together.
For real?!
I'll make dessert sometime.
It made me feel good...
..to make someone happy.
.. every time I tutored him.
As we ate together...
...we found more to talk about.
I'd rather be a good father.
I don't need an impressive career like my parents.
I don't really care about college much.
It's healthy, and doesn't cost me any money.

You and I could have those kids toge-
Ow!!
BONK
One who gives his kids everything
...and makes his family happy!
You KNOW...
...HE'S NOT SO BAD.
For a dirty brat, that is
PPPPP

On your way home?
Been detention?
FLINCH
Hey!
Yikes!
Oh. Takashi.
Uh... yeah
Isn't it sorta late?
MUMBLE
You are?
Well, let's go to my place and talk.
I'm giving Ryo some extra lessons


And you're making him dinner?
Uh-huh...
You shouldn't be doing that.
If you've got so much time, find a *real* job!
Are you *falling* for a *student*?
It's not like that!
Then what *is* it like?
It's
HE'S *ALWAYS* THIS WAY.

You're too involved!
All you have to do is tutor him!
TAKASHI ONLY SEES THINGS HIS WAY.
OK...
you're right.
AND AS ALWAYS...
...I CAN'T TELL HIM HOW I REALLY FEEL.
But I can't just ignore someone who needs me

IF THIS IS HOW WE ARE TOGETHER...

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
Hm?
SWIPE
FWOOSH
...MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T BE TOGETHER.
A STALKER?
Un-oh. . .
...he's following me.
KRRING
Welcome!

Where is he?
He's over there.
Teach!
The bastard!
Sawaii!
Ryo? What are you doing?!
Ryo... wait!
It's...
You're gonna regret this!
Don't ever bother her again!
CHAPTER 1 END

Joseph? But he looks Japanese!
Your... what?
BWUMP
His name's Joseph.
... my fortune-teller?!

Agh!
He got away!
FTUMP
SNFF
I'm shaking...

It's all right, Teach I'll walk you to your place.
Thank you, Ryo
Well, I'm gonna head home.
Aren't you afraid I'll jump your bones?
Come in for tea first?

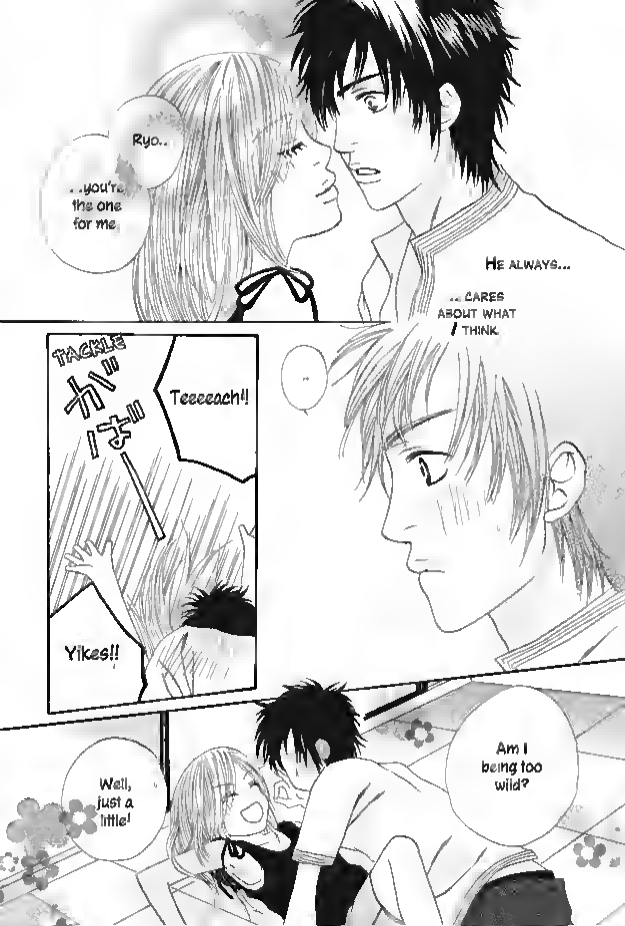
I'm still scared Please, don't leave me alone.
Yo Jump my ?
HA HA HA
What's so funny?
I can't promise I'll behave, you know.
KA-CHAK
TWEET
TWEET

DOES THAT MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS?
LAST NIGHT...
...I PHONED RYO FOR HELP.
CLASP
THUD
THUD
COFFEE
Are you serious?
Well, that's the end of that

You're not thinking about your future
You'll regret it later
Yes
I wanna break up
No, I won't
I wanna break up
I DECIDED THIS BY MYSELF. NO FORTUNES.
EVEN IF I DO REGRET IT.
We're done
...IT WAS STILL MY DECISION.

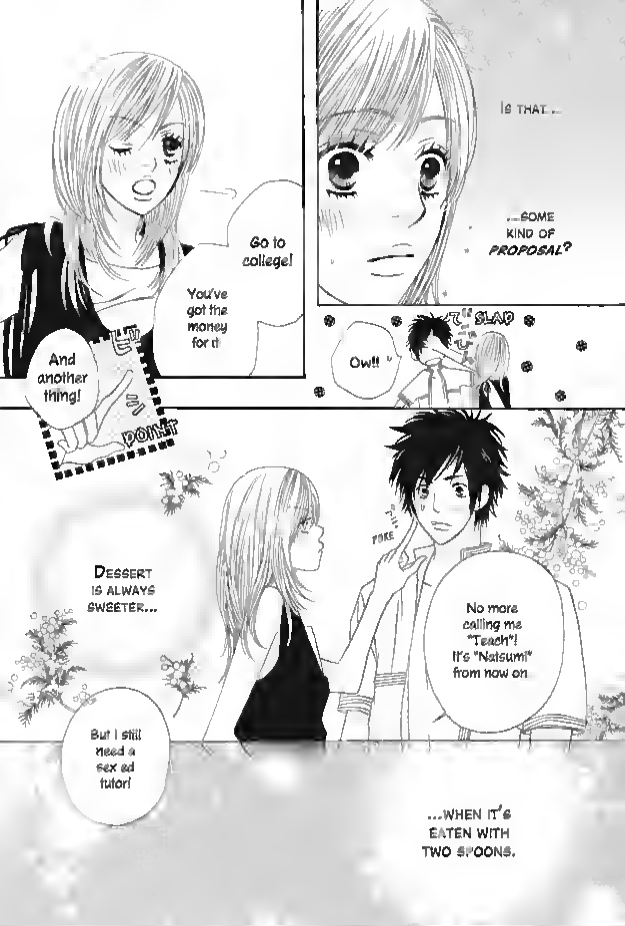
Because things've changed!
That's why!
KLANK KLANK
カチーコチ
Excuse me. May I enter?
Why so formal?
You've been here before
Uh-huh
I guess you are.
Am I
your boyfriend now?

"Teach"?
Awesome, Teach!
I'm too happy!
Huh?
HA HA
But please don't!
It's your last chance to reject me!
If it is... I'll cry!
Is this all a joke?
Am I really your boyfriend?

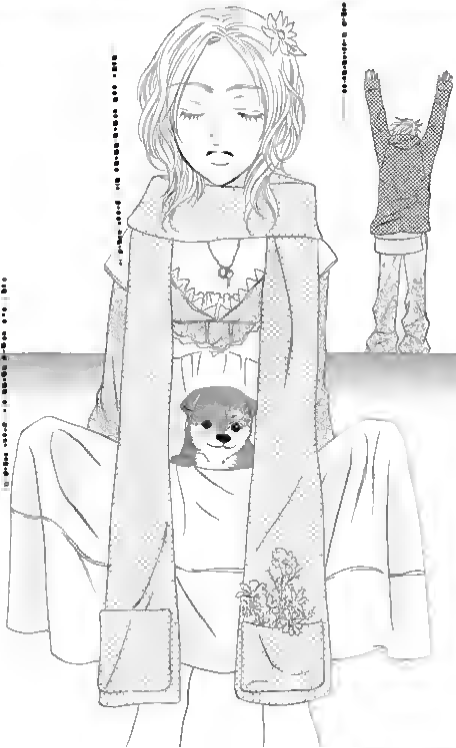

Ryo..
..you're the one for me
He always...
...cares about what I think
TACKLE
カバッ
Teeeeach!!
Yikes!!
Am I being too wild?
Well, just a little!

Mm.
Oh...
Teach...
WHAT A CONSIDERATE GUY...
But, that's just how I want you!
...mm.
SOB
This is so... moving!
He's gonna cry while we do it?
HE'S SO INNOCENT!
Hey...
...don't cry.

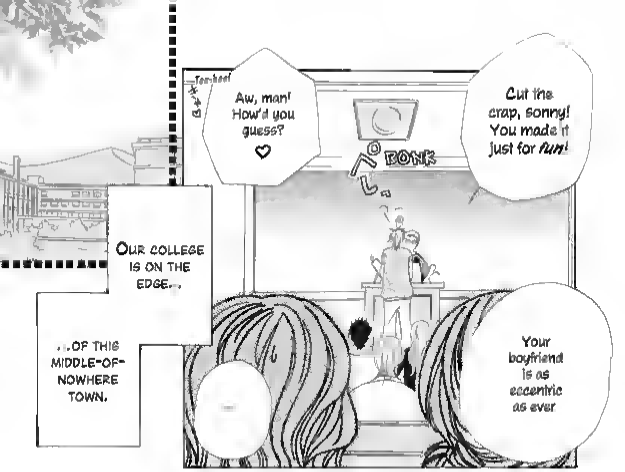
Are we doing the right thing?
Hey, it's too late for doubts!
Anyway, you still have a lot to teach me.
Hey, Teach...
...are you poor? This place is sorta dumpy
EMPTY
Maybe I should forget school and get a job
What?! Don't make me feel bad!
He needs me.


Is that...
...some kind of PROPOSAL?
Go to college!
You've got the money for it
And another thing!
DON'T
SLAP
Ow!!
TAKE
No more calling me "Teach"! It's "Natsumi" from now on
Dessert is always sweeter...
But I still need a sex ed tutor!
...when it's eaten with two spoons.

Puppy Chow



I'M CONVICED THAT HIBIKI IS AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE
Listen up, you!
Your homework was to write about French literature!
I didn't ask you to build some stupid toy!
I'm insulted, Professor!!
This was the result of laborious, analytical thought!
It's an objective representation of my thesis!
Mana..


Aw, man! How'd you guess? ♡
Cut the crap, sonny! You made it just for fun!
BONK
Our college is on the edge...
...of this middle-of-nowhere town.
Your boyfriend is as eccentric as ever

HEH
You wanna, you know, uh, like, maybe go out sometime?
It's been two months...
...since Hibiki first asked me out.
You wanna? Huh? Um, with me?
Sorry. I'm a little nervous.

I WAS LONELY BECAUSE I'D JUST BROKEN UP WITH MY EX...
...SO I SAID YES.
He's so *different* compared to your other boyfriends. We had our doubts, you know.
But you two are *always* together
It looks like things are going well
Yeah, but...
...sometimes I wor..er.
Get down, Hibiki!
That's dangerous!
...

It's cold. Let's get something hot to drink.
Attaaack!!
Look!! Killer Crabs!!
DWEBOSH
Um, wanna go somewhere?
Well, where to?
Sure.
Hmm...

Where do you wanna go, Mana?
What do you want to do?
.. ALWAYS ASKS ME WHAT I WANT.
Ooh! A cat and her kitten!
How adorable!
I'd like him to take more of a lead.
I NEVER KNOW...
...HOW TO ANSWER HIM.

I don't know what to do about him.
So don't go out with him.
No, that's just it! I *want* to go out with him, but I want him to figure out—
. what would make me happy all by himself! *Then* I'd feel loved!
But he just *asks* me.
It's like he's not *thinking* about what would make me happy at all
Are you sure?
Yes, I'm sure!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIM...
...AND IT FRUSTRATES ME.

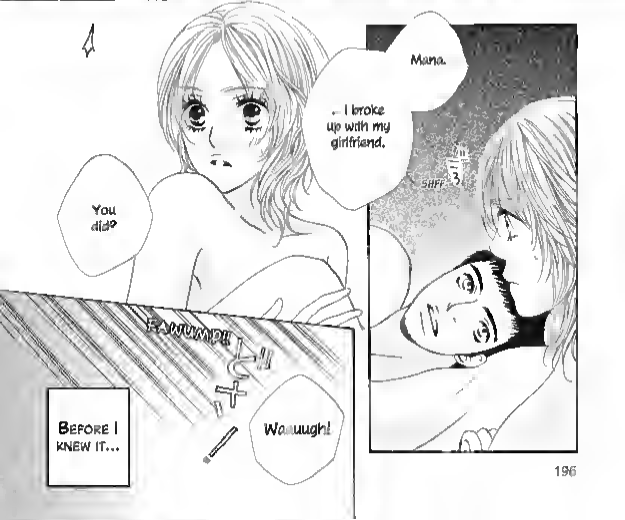
Are you looking for a jacket?
Uh... no.
I'm not sure *myself* what I'm looking for.
Huh?
Hmm...
MUTTER
I *still* haven't bought a thing today!
MUTTER
UGGGHHHH

It's been awhile.
Mind if I sit?
CHAK
Hey, Mana.
Oh.
Hi, Shinji.
SHINJI AND I STOPPED DATING ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
HE MET SOMEONE ELSE
HEH...?
You sat down before you even asked!
How've you been?
I do?
You looked better before. I really liked the way you used to look.
The same as always
You look different, though
WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER...
...I HAD MORE OF A SLIM AND CUTE STYLE.

That's what I liked about him

No.
We're gonna eat something first
Is that where we're gonna drink?
Let's stop by the music shop
NOW!
Sure!
He leads me by the hand.
It's just like old times...
Yeah, let's!
Now I'm ready for beer!
Let's find a bar.
I can leave all of the decisions up to him.
Eek!

I LEFT TOO MANY OF THE DECISIONS UP TO HIM!

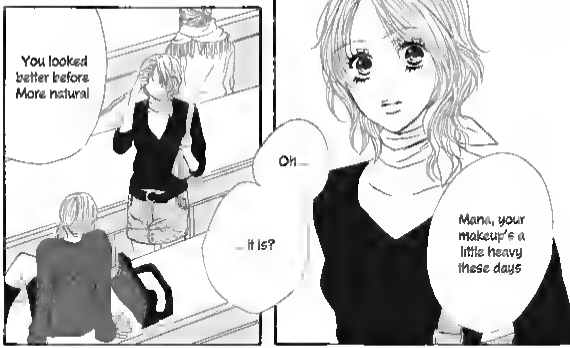

Mana.
.. I broke up with my girlfriend.
SHFF
You did?
FAMUMP!
Wa...uugh!
BEFORE I KNEW IT...

...I WAS UNDER HIS SPELL ..
...AND UNDER HIM!
Let's get back together.
I MEAN, SHINJI'S...
...THE KIND OF MAN I NEED
I see.
Well, if that's what you really want
Mana.
Is that...
Sorry, Hibiki.

EVEN NOW...
...HE'S ASKING ME.
...what will make you happy?

You're such a cutie, Mana!!
Really? Thanks!
Hey.
...you look good today!

Hey, let's go to Noir.
Shigaru's the DJ there tonight
...I KNOW HE LIKES ME
THIS IS HOW..
Oh! Shigeru!
It's been ages! I wonder if he remembers me.
I'm sure he does
SHINJI MAKES DECISIONS FOR ME...
...TAKES ME PLACES...
...AND GIVES ME STRUCTURE


You looked better before. More natural
Oh...
...it is?
Mana, your makeup's a little heavy these days

You shouldn't let your boyfriend dictate how you look.
...when you were with Hiroki.
You know...
"Before"?

History of French Literature

Today's lecture is canceled.

KA-CHAK
Shinji!? Surprise! Class got canceled, so I came to visit you!
I brought cupcakes, so let's—
!!
FWUMP

WHAT'S...
...GOING ON HERE?!
SLAM!!
BATUNK
KA-CHAK
Um.
She's my, you know...

She's my ex
Are you getting back together?
Yeah.
So you and I are through?
That girl looked...
...just like me!
GRAB
Sorry, Mana.

SPLAT!
I can't believe you!
Our faces are different...
...but we dress the same.
How could I have been...
...so weak?
Why did I ever...
...change myself for that creep?

THE LAST TIME WE BROKE UP, I CRIED UNTIL THERE WERE NO TEARS LEFT.
BUT THIS TIME...
...I ONLY FEEL ANGER.
BUT WHO SHOULD I BE MAD AT?
FLAP
FLAP
Celebrity Fashion
OR...
...MYSELF!
SHINJI?
HIBIKI FOR NOT STOPPING ME?

Hun?
Which ones do you like?
Hibiki, which outfits do you like?
Those are the ones I'll buy
I like the ones...
...that you like, Mana!
I THOUGHT HIS QUESTIONS...
...MEANT THAT HIBIKI DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME
CLENCH
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG?

FLIP
HIBIKI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER LIKED THE REAL ME.
BUT NOW THAT I REALIZE IT...
...IT'S TOO LATE.

Oh
the real Mana is back.
Bakery Cafe
SMILE
I'm glad.
You look so much better this way
SMAK!
ouch!
RUSTLE!!
Hey!
Are you playing hooky?
Hiiki.

SNEAKING OFF
I'll leave you two alone!
So sweet
ARF!!
PEEK
What'd you say?!
No, wait!
Two of 'em!
Puppies! How cute!!
Someone abandoned them.
Do you like dogs, Mana? Do you want one?
They're so adorable! Where'd you get them?
They were abandoned? How sad
I'd love to have one!
I'll ask my roommate.
Until then, I'll take care of both of them.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YAWWWN
They're always moving...
from one thing to another
OK!
They're geniuses...
...at keeping themselves entertained
THEY'RE A LOT LIKE HISIKI THAT WAY.
Hey, not so rough!

Uh... Hideki?
Shinji cheated on me...
...and we broke up
Oh—
—I'm sorry you had to go through that

Hibiki...
Your kindness and understanding...
...makes me cry.
So does this mean...
..I can welcome you back?

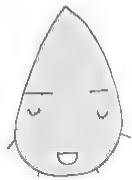
He didn't ask me many questions today.
Is that because we both felt the same way?
Mm.
Yeah— I'm back now

TUG
Hiriki...
Uhm!
...I WANT US TO SHARE THE SAME WORLD
I WANT OUR HEARTS TO FIT TOGETHER *PERFECTLY.*

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LOTS OF FUN!
I'm answering roll call for her.
She's on a date with Hibiki.
Where's Mana?
They're back together?! That's a surprise!
WE'RE GOING TO ROMP AROUND...
...THE WHOLE WIDE, WONDERFUL WORLD...
Yeah, but Mana...
...looks happy these days.
...LIKE LITTLE PUPPIES.

Postscript

Hello!! I'm Hana Aoi.



Thank you for reading this far!! ♡

Looking at some of the older art is an exercise in positive thinking. At least I've made progress!

The hardest thing about putting together a collection like this is facing my older works in the book.

Let's take a look back at the stories!

♥Love for Dessert

I actually have a friend who makes her own whipped cream and eats it with a spoon.

It's not for me though!

♥Icing on the Cake

This was a contribut on to a manga special in Japan about suits. It's amazing how a casual guy can suddenly look awesome in a suit!

I love that!

♥Bubblegum Princess

I needed more practice drawing girls in Lolita outfits.

Full-page illustrations are a blast to draw!

♥Red Bean

I have a friend whose hair once caught fire from a garbage incinerator and he had to shave his head.

What a hottie!

♥Sweet Future

This was a contribution to a manga special in Japan with the theme of fated love (if I remember correctly.) This is more like fortune than fate though, isn't it?

This story also appeared in two different manga specials about heroines who are pursued by weird guys. (Eek!) I've written a few more like it!

♥Puppy Chow

I thought of the title first and came up with the story later.

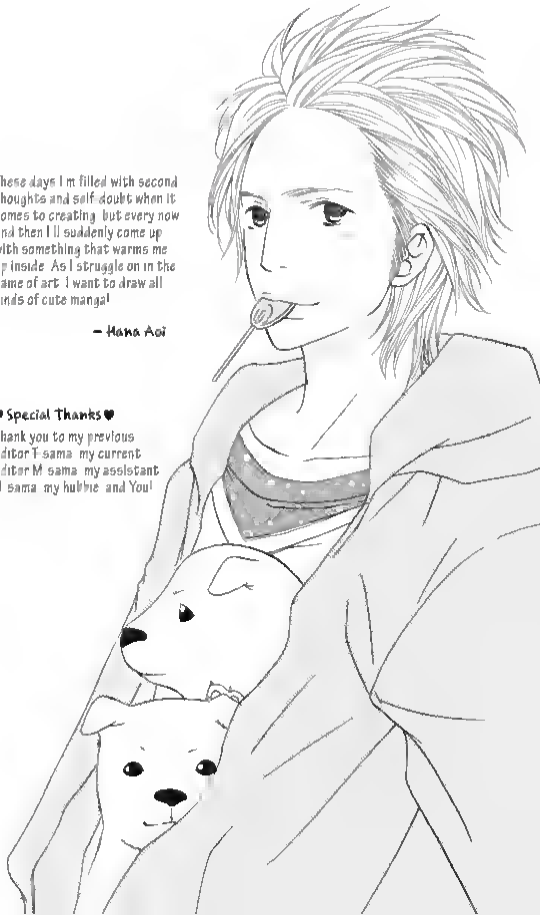
I was thinking up a lot of quirky titles with katakana in them back then!

These days I'm filled with second thoughts and self-doubt when it comes to creating, but every now and then I'll suddenly come up with something that warms me up inside. As I struggle on in the name of art, I want to draw all kinds of cute manga!

– Hana Aoi

♥ Special Thanks ♥

Thank you to my previous editor T-sama, my current editor M-sama, my assistant U-sama, my hubbie, and You!



This is the back of the book. Read from right to left.

◀◀◀◀◀ Turn over & enjoy! ◀◀◀◀◀

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